

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture; ~~and,~~
a liner, the liner having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, with
the liner arranged and configured to fit into said sleeve in a nesting
relation; and,

a skirt, the skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first
position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a
brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive
with the handle of a brush;

wherein the holder receives the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the
handle of the paintbrush ~~protruding~~ ~~protrudes~~ through the aligned
apertures of the sleeve and the liner in a sealing relation;

whereby liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a
paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation is
captured by the inner liner of the holder and prevented from contacting the
user of the brush..

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The holder of claim 1 [[2]], wherein said skirt comprises:
a first panel and a second panel, with the first panel and second panel constructed and
arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into its first
and second positions.

Claim 4 (Original): The holder of claim 3, wherein each of said first and second panels further comprise opposing extensions, with said opposing extensions of said first and second panels arranged and configured to contact each other in a substantially overlapping relation when the skirt is moved into its first and second positions.

Claim 5 (Original): The holder of claim 3, further comprising a fastener, the fastener operable to maintain said panels in a predetermined orientation when said skirt is moved into its first and its second positions.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A protective holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the protective holder comprising:

a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an inner surface comprising absorbent material and an outer surface comprising non-absorbent material; the flexible sleeve positionable about the body of a paintbrush so that said inner surface is adjacent to the applicator of a paintbrush, whereby the flexible sleeve collects liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation; and,

a skirt, the skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a brush.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The protective holder of claim 11 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein each of said first and second panels further comprise opposing extensions, with said opposing extensions of said first and second panels arranged and configured to contact each other in a substantially overlapping relation when the skirt is moved into its first and second positions.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The protective holder of claim 11 [[8]], further comprising a fastener, the fastener operable to maintain said panels in a predetermined orientation when said skirt is moved into its first and its second positions.

Claim 11 (Newly Added): A protective holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the protective holder comprising:

- a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an inner surface and an outer surface; the flexible sleeve positionable about the body of a paintbrush so that said inner surface is adjacent to the applicator of a paintbrush, whereby the flexible sleeve collects liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation; and,

- a skirt comprising a first panel and a second panel, with the first and second panels constructed and arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 12 (Newly Added): A protective holder for a paintbrush of the type having a removable handle having an attachment end, a body having a handle receiving aperture, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

- a sleeve comprising a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture; wherein the sleeve of the protective holder is configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation such that the aperture of the sleeve is in alignment with the handle receiving aperture of a paintbrush body; and,

- wherein the protective holder may be removably retained on a paintbrush by the handle of a paintbrush as the attachment end of the handle is inserted into the handle receiving aperture of the body of a paintbrush that has been

substantially received within the sleeve.

Claim 13 (Newly Added): The protective holder of claim 12, further comprising a liner having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, with the liner arranged and configured to fit into said sleeve in a nesting relation;

wherein the liner of the protective holder is configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation such that the aperture of the liner is in alignment with the aperture of the sleeve and the handle receiving aperture of a paintbrush body.

Claim 14 (Newly Added): The protective holder of claim 13, wherein the liner comprises absorbent material.

Claim 15 (Newly Added): The protective holder of claim 12, further comprising a skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a brush.

Claim 16 (Newly Added): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, the sleeve configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the handle of the paintbrush protruding through the aligned aperture of the sleeve; and,

a skirt comprising a first panel and a second panel, with the first and second panels operatively connected to the sleeve such that each panel may be moved independently of the other, the first and second panels constructed and arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 17 (Newly Added): The holder of claim 16, wherein the first and second panels are hingedly connected to the sleeve.

Claim 18 (Newly Added): The holder of claim 16, wherein the first and second panels are operatively connected along opposing sidewalls of the sleeve.

Claim 19 (Newly Added): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

- a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, the sleeve configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the handle of the paintbrush protruding through the aligned aperture of the sleeve; and,

- a skirt comprising a panel operatively connected to a segment of the sleeve, with the panel movable between a first position where the panel is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the panel is substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 20 (Newly Added): The holder of claim 19, wherein the segment of the sleeve to which the panel is operatively connected to is one of the plurality of sidewalls of the sleeve.

Claim 21 (Newly Added): The holder of claim 20, wherein the panel is configured to be pivoted between the first and second positions.